not allow their territories to be used for activities inimical to each other. A bilateral institutional mechanism has also been evolved which includes a joint working group on border management and Home Secretary level talks. The special service bureau has been deployed along the border with Nepal to strengthen security in the border areas. The extradition arrangements between India and Nepal are presently governed by the Treaty of Extradition of 1953.The Government of India has proposed that the Treaty be updated and has handed over to His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) a model text of an updated Extradition Treaty.

Bhutan

The presence of ULFA, NDFB and KLO militants on Bhutanese territory has been a subject of discussion with the Government of Bhutan. The National Assembly of Bhutan adopted a series of Resolutions in 1999, 2000 and again in 2001 to control this menace. The extradition arrangements between India and Bhutan are governed by the Extradition Agreement signed between the two countries on May 20, 1997. Under this Agreement, India and Bhutan are committed to safeguarding each other's security and stability.

Grants to Centre for Research in Indo-Bangladesh Relations

3035. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped grants to the Centre for Research on Indo-Bangladesh Relations (CRIBR), Kolkata, recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of such other organisations which are being funded by Government at present, alongwith quantum of grant and objectives being fulfilled by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. The Government conducts periodic evaluations of the grants being made to the Centre. Accordingly, it was decided to reduce the annual grant in phases and finally terminate it.

(c) An annual grant of Rs. 2 lakhs is given to Centre for Advanced Studies of India at the University of Pennsylvania (CASI), USA. The objective is to link American and Indian academics, professional and policy maker for potential scholarly, economic, technological and political co-operation. The grant is meant to be a token of our appreciation of the Centre's contribution towards generating better awareness of India in the United States.

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi received a grant of Rs. 1,34,36,000/-. The ICWA premises are being used to hold important seminars and conferences on subjects that are of interest and relevance to our foreign policy.

A grant of Rs. 13 lakhs has been provided to the Institute of Chinese Studies in Delhi University to encourage scholarship on China to enable dealing, in an educated and effective manner, with the rapidly changing and growing China, our largest neighbour.

Indian Passports to Afghani Refugees

3036. SHRI RAMACHANORA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several Afghan nationals living in India as refugees have managed to procure Indian Passports in connivance with an Assistant Regional Passport Officer;

(b) if so, the number of such cases came to light so far; and

(c) the action taken by Government to investigate the matter thoroughly and to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Since the middle of 1999. 65 cases of passports issued to Afghan refugees living in India have been detected. The matter was looked Into. No evidence of connivance of an Assistant Passport Officer has come to light.

(c) All 65 passports were issued by the Regional Passport Office, Delhi on the basis of clear police reports or verification certificates issued by officers of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above to the Government of India. Passports in all cases have been revoked. The police authorities